

aid in 1997 was \$971. By providing health care coverage, this legislation will ensure that federal employees and their families will be able to afford much-needed hearing aids.

There are a number of insurance policies that cover hearing aids. The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) provides coverage for hearing tests and hearing evaluations, at no cost. This plan also covers up to \$1,000 every three years for hearing aids.

The State of Minnesota Employees Insurance provides coverage for hearing exams and up to 80 percent of the cost of a hearing aid for all its employees. And Hartford Insurance provides hearing testing and the full cost of two aids every five years.

Mr. Speaker, hearing loss is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in America. We must address this serious problem by making hearing aids more affordable, so that hearing-impaired individuals and their families can improve the quality of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that I missed votes numbered 204–238 from June 14 to 18, 1999, as I was attending the inauguration ceremony of South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Under the authorization of Chairman BEN GILMAN of the House International Relations Committee, I was the sole representative of the U.S. Congress at the inauguration.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF DAYTON, KENTUCKY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the 150th birthday of Dayton, Kentucky.

Dayton is a city that has overcome much adversity in its 150 years, including three major floods. Dayton's resilience can be traced to the strong work ethic of its people. The people of Dayton, including its government, business, and education leaders, have always had a "roll up your sleeves and get to work" attitude. It's that kind of work ethic that helped build America's great cities—big and small.

Earlier this month, I was honored to take part in Dayton's sesquicentennial parade to commemorate Dayton's many accomplishments and to celebrate this important milestone. And today, in the U.S. House of Representatives, I rise to congratulate the city of Dayton. To the people of Dayton on the occasion of your city's sesquicentennial—Happy Birthday to you.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ceaseless service of over 20 school teachers and principals upon their retirement from the Thompson School District in Loveland and Berthoud, Colorado. From first grade to twelfth grade, these hard working citizens have dedicated their lives to America's youth. Through education, these mentors selflessly helped students of all ages to believe in themselves and strive to achieve their goals. A majority of these teachers served the Thompson School District for at least 20 years, and others have dedicated as much as 30 years in the district. Their unrelenting work is truly a tribute to the Thompson School District and to American public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby personally recognize each of these educators on behalf of the House of Representatives of the United States of America: Debra Biernat, Bonnie Bonewitz, Frances Clark, Carol Dormer, Nancy Erickson, Martha Grohusky, Cecilo Gutierrez, Wayne Gutowski, JoAnn Hanson, Vicki Hout, Ellyn Johnson, Marion Kolstoe, James McReynolds, Lee Parsons, Mary Peterson, Sandra Roorda, Terry Roulter, Charles Schoonover, Susan Schoonover, William Shields, William Speiser, James Spoon, Karen Storm, Valerie Trujillo, Mary Vogesser, and Joan Zuboy. These educators' devotion to children has earned the respect of their colleagues, parents, and students. I wish them a very fulfilling retirement and the best in all of their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE QUINE, FORMER CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER; AKRON, OHIO, ACTIVIST

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, with her lilting Milledgeville, Georgia, accent, Jane Quine became an improbable but highly effective political leader in Akron, Ohio, for 25 years. Jane Quine died at age 81 last Thursday in Jacksonville, Florida. She has left us with abundant memories of her leadership, her grace, and her seemingly boundless energy.

Mrs. Quine served twice as a congressional staffer. First, she worked for Rep. Carl Vinson during the build-up and height of World War II. This was where she met Akronite John Quine. Mr. Quine, on assignment to Vinson's Naval Affairs Committee, was persuasive enough not only to marry her, but to convince her to make Akron her home.

We didn't call it the "mommy track" back then, but Jane Quine did give up active politics for about two decades while she raised six children. Then she returned to the political arena in 1970 as a campaign worker for John

Seiberling, my predecessor in Congress. With Rep. Seiberling, she reprised her role as congressional staffer, becoming his District Director for several years.

Then she ran a number of key local campaigns, including my own campaigns for Mayor of Akron and for the U.S. House of Representatives. Unlike the smoke-filled rooms that local politics sometimes bring to mind, Jane Quine used her gracious home as the setting for countless meetings, both formal and informal, as she built a strong party network. She mentored, and some would say mothered, politicians from across the county. All along, the values she espoused were democratic, in the broadest sense of the word—duty, activism, inclusion, participation, service.

In 1986, Governor Richard Celeste appointed her to the University of Akron board of trustees, where she served through 1995. In 1990, Jane Quine became the first woman to chair the Summit County Democratic Party. She also served on the board of the Akron-Canton Regional Airport for most of the 1980's as it prepared for a period of unprecedented growth.

Those of us left behind in snowy Ohio regretted her leaving in 1995 for St. Augustine, Florida, where she immersed herself in still more worthy causes. Still, a whole generation of Akron's public officials found her departure left a distinct void in our lives, compounded by Thursday's sad news.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Tuesday's editorial from the Akron Beacon Journal, recounting Mrs. Quine's many contributions to the Akron area, be printed in the RECORD.

JANE QUINE: ALWAYS A DEMOCRAT, ALWAYS
THERE FOR DEMOCRATS

If ever there was a person associated with polite politics, it was Jane Quine. A genteel, old-fashioned Southerner, Mrs. Quine believed that slash-and-burn campaigns did the practice of professional politics, which she loved, far more harm than good.

Mrs. Quine, who died last week in Florida at age 81, was the rock on which many local political careers were built. She was a mainstay of local Democratic politics for several decades, including service as the first female county Democratic chairman. A self-described "stamp-licker" for U.S. Rep. John Seiberling's first successful campaign, Mrs. Quine is credited either with launching political careers or helping to sustain them with wise counsel, vast energy and unwavering loyalty.

She couldn't resist the call to help Democrats. She became active in party politics in St. Augustine, Fla., where she moved in 1995. After all, she said, "There aren't many of us down here."

Her innate sense of right and wrong kept her involved. Politics requires two strong parties, and she was a true Democrat. She also believed in her duty to the community, serving on the boards of the University of Akron and the Akron-Canton Regional Airport.

If local politics has turned harsh, it may be because people such as Jane Quine aren't on the scene to give it a firm but far gentler push toward reason.